

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0305

LIMDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LT, SF

SUBJECT: CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE

1. SUMMARY: MY FIRST CALL UPON RETURNING TO MASERU MARCH 9 WAS ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE. HE REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS RE LESOTHO'S MOST PRESSING AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, NAMELY DIFFICULTIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA OVER BANTUSTANS AND SPECIFICALLY THE TRANSKEI. GENERALLY, KOTSOKOANE SAW ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW INTEREST OF HOMELAND LEADERS IN MAJORITY RULE. REGARDING TRANSKEI, HE AFFIRMED SOUTH AFRICA WAS QUIETLY INCREASING DIFFICULTIES FOR LESOTHO. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE NORMALLY BUOYANT, KOTSOKOANE WAS CLEARLY ELATED BY REPORTS THAT SEVERAL SO-CALLED BLACK HOMELAND LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE SPEAKING OUT IN FAVOR OF MAJORITY RULE AND UNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AGAINST "DANGEROUS FRAGMENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICA INTO DISJOINTED BANTUSTANS. AMONG ENCOURAGING SIGNS WERE (A) BUTHELEZI'S CALL FOR MAJORITY RULE AND REPORTED REFUSAL "TO HAVE ANY TRUCK WITH INDEPENDENCE WHEN LAND AREAS INVOLVED WERE HOPELESSLY
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DIVIDED"; (B) MR. PHITUDI OF LEBOWA HAS SIMILARLY SPOKEN OUT PRIVATELY IN FAVOR OF MAJORITY RULE AND WAS REJECTING INDEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICAN TERMS; (C) MANTANZIMA, PHATUDI AND OTHER (UNNAMED) OFFICIALS OF "SOUTH AFRICA'S QWA QWA CREATION" WERE STANDING UP TO SOUTH AFRICA BY LAYING CLAIM TO RSA TERRITORY -- AS LESOTHO HAS DONE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OFFHAND QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS GOL HAND IN THIS, KOTSOKOANE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO "STIMULATE RE-THING BY FELLOW SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEADERS. HE ADDED, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT GOL HAS BROUGHT "PEOPLE" FROM TRANSKEI AND QWA QWA TO MASERU UNOFFICIALLY TO BRIEF THEM ON REASONS FOR UNCOMPROMISING GOL OPPOSITION TO BANTUSTANS. "OUR PURPOSE IS TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR THINKING", KOTSOKOANE SAID, STRESSING ESPECIALLY THE TOTAL UNVIABILITY OF BANTUSTANS AS ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL ENTITIES. HE LIKENED BANTUSTANS TO A CAR WHICH, WHEN DISMANTLED, CANNOT OPERATE. BY DIVIDING SOUTH AFRICA INTO FRAGMENTS, SAG IS DESTROYING EXISTING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM.

4. PURSUING QUESTION OF LESOTHO'S POSSIBLE LEVERAGE ON EVENTS, KOTSOKOANE SAID THERE ARE 2.5 MILLION BASOTHO IN SOUTH AFRICA; GOL IS USING THEM AS INSTRUMENTS OF GOL POLICY IN CAMPAIGN OF OPPOSITION TO BANTUSTANS. GOL ADVICE TO BASOTHO THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA IS VERY SIMPLE; IT IS "DON'T MOVE, BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD WEAKEN RESISTANCE TO BANTUSTANS BY HELPING SOUTH AFRICA CARRY OUT BANTUSTAN POLICY." KOTSOKOANE SAID GOL ATTEMPTS FOR ITS PART TO STRENGTHEN THE IDEA THAT "WHERE THERE ARE BASOTHO, THERE IS LESOTHO", I.E. PEOPLE CANNOT BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR NATIONALITY BY MOVING THEM FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER.

5. TRANSKEI: KOTSOKOANE NOTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL ACTIVELY TRYING TO FORCE RECOGNITION OF TRANSKEI. IT IS PRESENTLY "DOING THINGS COVERTLY" BUT WHICH GOL IS NOW MAKING PUBLIC. (RADIO LESOTHO HAS RECENTLY REPORTED THE BASIC FACTS.) KOTSOKOANE SAID GOL HAS VERIFIED AND CONFIRMED THAT SAG IS BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENTS. HE THEN READ FROM A "SOUTH AFRICAN" DOCUMENT STATING THAT THERE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE NOW ONLY TWO OFFICIAL ENTRY POINTS INTO SOUTH AFRICA FROM TRANSKEI - UMZIMKULU AND KEI BRIDGE - BY WHICH PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SOUTH OF LESOTHO CAN OFFICIALLY ENTER SOUTH AFRICA. IN OTHER WORDS, HE SAID, SAG NOW ADMITS THAT BORDER BETWEEN LESOTHO AND SAG IS LEGALLY CLOSED, I.E., DUE TO SOUTH AFRICAN REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE ENTRY EXCEPT AT THE TWO POINTS. SAG HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED TRAVELERS OF THIS CHANGE. AMONG THE CONSEQUENCES, KOTSOKOANE NOTED, WERE GREATLY INCREASED DISTANCES BASOTHO MUST TRAVEL TO REACH OFFICIAL ENTRY POINTS TO GET DOCUMENTATION ENABLING THEM TO ENTER SA.

6. KOTSOKOANE NOTED THAT THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FOR ORDINARY TRAVELERS; MINERS ARE OBJECT OF SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH THEY ARE BUSED TO SOUTH AFRICA. FOR AVERAGE CITIZENS, THE PROBLEM IS SERIOUS. FOUR BASOTHO WERE RECENTLY ARRESTED, AND TWO IMPRISONED, WHEN FOUND TO HAVE ENTERED SOUTH AFRICA FROM TRANSKEI TERRITORY THROUGH AN ENTRY POINT OTHER THAN THE TWO OFFICIAL ONES. KOTSOKOANE NOTED SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES TO SHOW "PIQUE AND RESENTMENT" AT LESOTHO'S DARING CHALLENGE OF SAG IN INTERNATIONAL

(I.E. UN) FORA. AMONG RECENT ACTS WAS ARREST AT NEARBY TOWN OF A WOMAN EMISSARY FROM LUSAKA TO MASERU. SAG POLICE TOOK LETTERS FROM HER ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN, LETTERS WHICH WERE RETURNED LATER HAVING BEEN OPENED AND RESEALED. KOTSOKOANE INTERPRETED THIS AS FURTHER REFLECTION OF SAG DISCOURTESY AND DISREGARD OF BASIC NORMS OF BEHAVIOUR IN ITS IRRATIONAL DETERMINATION "TO GET BACK AT" LESOTHO.

7. DEPARTMENT PASS AS DESIRED.
NORLAND

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